business of the House to discuss an urgent matter of public importance, viz.,—

"the failure of the Government to provide adequate facilities inside jails to cope with the arrest and detention of a large number of kisan satyagrahis unprecedented in the history of our jails which has resulted in the death of one of the prisoners in the Tiruchirappalli Central Jail".

Before I decide whether the matter proposed to be raised by the hon. Member is or is not in order. I must be satisfied that the matter involves more than the ordinary administration of law. It is, therefore, necessary to hear the Hon. Minister for Home. But as the Hon. Minister for Home is not here, I will take up the matter during the sittings of the Assembly in November.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: May I be heard, Sir?

DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can't predict.

III. CALLING ATTENTION TO THE PRICE OF YARN SUPPLIED TO HANDLOOM CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member Sri N. K. Palanisami may now read the notice under Rule 41 of the Assembly Rules.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMI: There is also another point. There are four other hon. Members who have given notice regarding the drought condition in Palladam, etc.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member need not make any speech or raise any other point. Is he going to read the notice under Rule 41 or not? I want to know that.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMI: I will read it.

I call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Industries to a matter of urgent public importance, viz,—

'the ever increasing price of yarn supplied to Handloom Co-operative Societies'.

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: Deputy Speaker, Sir, Sri R. Venkataraman, Minister for Industries, made a statement in the Council on 23—8—1960 on the steps taken by the Government to bring down the prices of yarn. There was no appreciable reduction in the prices of yarn and the prices continued to rule high in the market. The increase in the prices of yarn may be attributed to the shortage of indigenous cotton due to failure of cotton crop in North India and consequent rise in prices of cotton, increase in manufacturing costs, to a certain extent increase in the export of yarn to foreign countries and speculative activities.

The Government have been closely watching the situation and have been taking steps to keep the prices under check.

29th September 1961] [Sri V. Ramaiah]

With a view to considering the question of fair prices of yarn an informal meeting of representatives of some State Governments with the Government of India was held at New Delhi in October 1960. The Government of India have been referred the question of devising a formula for fixing ex-mill and retail prices of yarn to the Tariff Commission. Only on the receipt of its recommendation will it be possible to see whether any reduction in the prices of yarn is feasible. At the instance of the Minister for Industries, a Conference of representatives of handloom weavers was convened at Coimbatore on 24—6—1961 to discuss the scarcity and high prices of certain varities of yarn. The following decisions were taken at the Conference :—

(1) So far as co-operative societies are concerned, the arrangements now made by the President of the State Society with the South India Mill Owners' Association whereby societies would be enabled to obtain yarn at ex-mill rates, be continued.

(2) In regard to supply of yarn to weavers outside the co-operative fold, the Director of Handlooms might check the accounts of the associations through his field staff and allotments of yarn to the associations would be made on the basis of the recommendations of the Director of Handlooms. This arrangement might be tried for a period of three months in the first instance.

(3) Yarn to weavers outside the co-operative fold will be supplied at ex-mill rate plus one per cent profit plus tax and frieght.

(4) The retail rates of lower counts of yarn would be published in the newspapers for the benefit of the independent weavers.

(5) If there are any difficulties in implementing the above decision, the question of opening retail depots by the mills might be considered.

The latest trend of yarn price is downward. The restoration of power cut and the onset of monsoon has slackened the up-country demand. Fine counts value have declined. The price of Egyptian cotton is also reported to have gone down and the market is said to be weak. Generally it is said that there are more sellers than buyers.

The Government have not spared any efforts to bring down the prices of yarn.

IV. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS.

(1) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Sir, I, Chairman, Committee on Subordinate Legislation, present the Seventeenth Report (Second Assembly) of the Committee.